



The Pacific Community

Sustainable Pacific development through science, knowledge and innovation



Photo © Pacific Community (SPC)

Tenth Conference of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia, 2017

The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal intergovernmental organisation in the Pacific region, supporting development since 1947. We are an international development organisation owned and governed by our 26 country and territory members. In pursuit of sustainable development to benefit Pacific people, our organisation works across more than 20 sectors.

We are known for our knowledge and innovation in areas ranging from fisheries, public health, geoscience, climate change and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to human rights and education quality.

‘ Our Pacific vision is for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can live free, healthy and productive lives. ’

Vision for the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, adopted as SPC's Vision

ESTABLISHED: 1947

SERVING: 11 MILLION PEOPLE

MEMBERS: 26

STAFF: 600 ACROSS 5 SITES

WHERE WE WORK

26 MEMBER STATES AND TERRITORIES

AMERICAN SAMOA, AUSTRALIA, COOK ISLANDS, FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, FIJI, FRANCE, FRENCH POLYNESIA, GUAM, KIRIBATI, MARSHALL ISLANDS, NAURU, NEW CALEDONIA, NEW ZEALAND, NIUE, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PALAU, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PITCAIRN ISLANDS, SAMOA, SOLOMON ISLANDS, TOKELAU, TONGA, TUVALU, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VANUATU AND WALLIS AND FUTUNA.

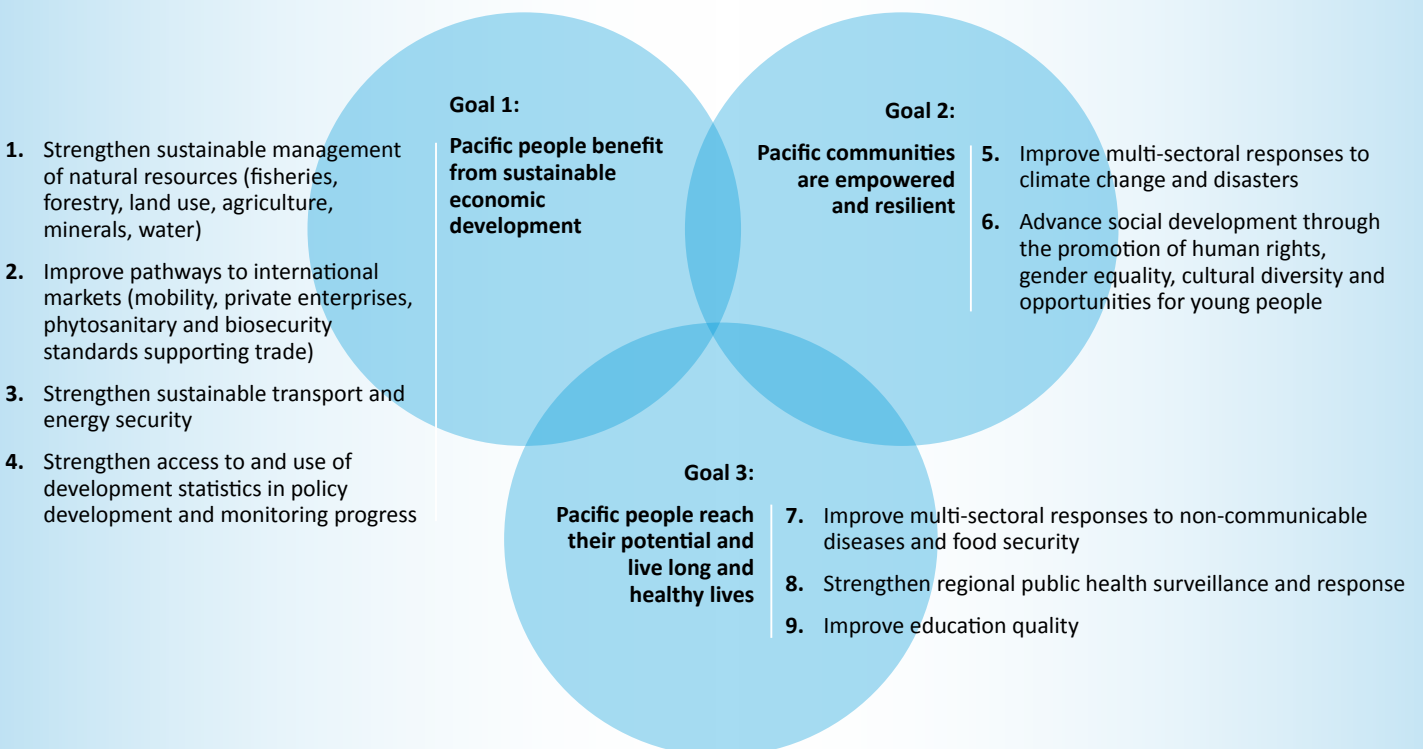
Our 22 Pacific Island members have diverse characteristics and cultures, but all share the challenges of life in remote areas with limited human and natural resources, small economies and distant markets. They are highly vulnerable to the impacts of external geopolitical and economic events, and even more so to the effects of climate change and intensifying natural disasters.

9 thematic divisions and programmes



SPC supports development outcomes across three broad impact areas:
oceans, land and people

Development goals of the Pacific Community



Working with partners

The Pacific Community works with governments, other international organisations, development partners, academia, communities, civil society organisations and the private sector. It unites these stakeholders around a common goal: the sustainable development of Pacific peoples.

SPC harnesses and develops science and knowledge, forming the bedrock for sustainable development policy in the region. Our deep understanding of the Pacific ensures that our work remains relevant to the contexts and the cultures of Pacific people.



SPC programmes look at all dimensions of sustainable development and ensure a complementary and coordinated approach to cover all aspects of development, including economic prosperity, social equity, and a healthy environment. This integrated approach is that of all global development frameworks including the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SPC fully aligns its action with the SDGs.

A convening power

SPC is the 'Meeting House' of the Pacific, and helps the region forge a **common understanding** of its challenges.

SPC is one of the world's oldest and most comprehensive intergovernmental organisations for development. It stewards the advancement of a wealth of science and technical expertise that allows countries to lobby collectively for their priorities. With this scientific base, original solutions – such as the 'Pacific model' for fisheries – can be developed, and serve as models for analysis and application in other regions around the world.

Supporting our work

Our work is made possible by the contributions of our members. Substantial funding is provided by our four metropolitan members (Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States). Those and other major development partners, including the European Union, work with us on mechanisms to implement multi-year development projects.

Funds are used to deliver activities on the ground, provide science for policy-making, and maintain crucial facilities, such as the genetic resources bank (CePaCT) in Fiji, and public health surveillance networks.

Sharing data and knowledge

SPC leads the development of **knowledge sharing projects** in this region, including an open data portal, a centre for ocean science, and capacity-building initiatives, using new technologies to disseminate knowledge. SPC measures progress in the Pacific by gathering statistics and data to feed the SDGs indicator framework, in close collaboration with the United Nations.

Our history

1947

The 'South Pacific Commission' was founded in Australia in 1947 by the six 'participating governments' that then administered territories in the Pacific Islands region: Australia, France, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

1962

Pacific Island nations progressively became independent or largely self-governing, and full members of SPC. Samoa became SPC's first Pacific Island member.

1983

The 23rd South Pacific Conference gave all Pacific Island countries and territories full and equal membership and ownership of SPC, making it the first inclusive Pacific intergovernmental organisation to put regionalism into practice.

1997

The South Pacific Commission became the Pacific Community, to reflect its Pacific-wide membership, with 26 members spanning the entire Pacific islands region.

1999

SPC's first female Director-General elected.

2014

SPC convened leaders from the Pacific in Noumea, together with the French President, and facilitated a common stand at COP 21; the Paris Agreement largely echoes concerns voiced by Pacific countries.

2017

Creation of the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS).

Contact us

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